

the article. One method of shielding the article from the electron beam is to use a blanking device that turns off the beam. Alternatively, a shutter device could be placed between the beam and the article to block the beam. As the support platform moves with the X-member, the electromagnetic coils associated with the X-direction linear motors also move. However, because the article is not being exposed during this time, the movement of the electromagnetic coils and/or any other magnetic materials have no effect on exposure performance. Also, because the article is not exposed by the electron beam as the stage is moved in the X-direction, low precision bearings not designed for fine and smooth movement may be used to facilitate positioning of the stage in the X-direction.

Page 16, lines 16-27, please amend the paragraph, as follows:

A reaction force canceling technique using a reaction frame is shown in Fig. 7. Frame 22 is flexibly attached to the main system structure (not shown). This allows for some small movement of the frame and stage, so that reactive forces applied from the magnet tracks 46, 76 of the stage motor, which cause small movements of the stage frame 22, do not transmit through the frame 22 directly to the main system structure. Frame 22 is held in place partly by rods 201, which in turn are connected to block 202. Block 202 is connected to ground 211. A seal or flexible bellows 203 is used to prevent leakage around rod 201. Additional rods 204, 205 are used to secure the frame 22. Rods 204, 205 are also attached to ground blocks (not shown) similar to 202. The reaction forces from the motors are thus grounded resulting in minimal disturbance to the main system structure.